

## WIMBORNE—Mr. C. H. WATTS-PARKINSON.

Population 1894,      The year 1894 was a most remarkable one, not only for the extraordinary low death and birth rate, but also the low infantile mortality (only at the rate of 42 per 1000 births), and the fact that no death occurred from any of the chief Zymotic diseases (only 1 death from Erysipelas and 2 from Influenza). 21 deaths of old persons over 65 years of age, while only one death from phthisis and 2 from bronchitis, &c., were registered.

Estimated 3650 ; Deaths 39, 10·7 per 1000 ; Births 72, 20 per 1000 ; Natural increase of population, 33 ; Infants' mortality, per 1000 births, 42.

Altogether 43 deaths were registered, 20 males and 23 females, but from these must be deducted 4 deaths (3 males and 1 female) persons coming into the district while attacked with the fatal illness. Estimating the population at 3650, this would give the very low death rate of 10·7 per 1000.

It is satisfactory to find that the mortality from phthisis and lung diseases is almost nil, and that the reputation of Wimborne as a suitable residence for persons with weak chests is fully maintained.

The 4 deaths of persons coming to the Town while ill, were due, 1 to Hematemesis, 1 Malarial fever, 1 Bronchitis, and 1 Heart disease and Influenza.

Of the 39 deaths, there were 17 males and 22 females.

Infants 3 (2 males and 1 female), 2 from premature birth and 1 convulsions.

1-5 only one death, a female from convulsions

5-65, 14 (5 males and 7 females) 1 convulsions, 1 erysipelas, 1 rheumatic fever, 1 phthisis, 1 bronchitis, &c., 3 cancer, 2 heart and 1 brain disease.

Over 65, 21 (11 males and 10 females), 1 Influenza, 5 heart and 2 brain disease.

Only 72 births (34 males and 38 females) were registered (32 less than in 1893), being at the very low rate of 20 per 1000 estimated population as compared with 29 per 1000 in 1893.

*Notification of Diseases Act.*—Only 13 cases were reported during the year, and of these 7 were cases of Scarlatina, and 6 of Erysipelas and one death from Erysipelas was registered.

With the exception of a series of cases in one house, at the beginning of the year, all the cases of Scarlatina were isolated ones, and of very mild type, and the source of infection could not be traced. The cases of Erysipelas were also isolated ones, and it is a question whether Erysipelas should be included in the list of notifiable diseases.

The addition of phthisis to the list of notifiable diseases has been suggested, although I do not quite think this necessary, I am strongly of opinion that at least any bedroom tenanted by a consumptive person should be disinfected before being again used.

During the past year many of the sewers have been thoroughly examined and improved where necessary, and better arrangements for flushing provided. Additional ventilators have been erected and this work will be continued. The number of earth-closets have increased and the arrangements for emptying, &c., improved, and the Company's water introduced into fresh houses.

There is still room for improvement in the New Boro' especially, and I have recommended that the Company's water should be introduced there, and also earth-closets where possible, as the ground lies so low that the drainage cannot be relied on.

I am glad to find the heavy floods that caused so much distress to the people living below Eastbrook Bridge, have passed away without much injury to health, but I would recommend careful inquiry as to the best mode of preventing these floods which are so dangerous to health.

The Bye-laws for the District, having been completed and passed by the Local Government Board, will be of great assistance to the Sanitary Officers if the provisions are insisted on. During the past year, improvements have been effected in the existing slaughter-house and as the bye-laws forbid any new ones being started, it is necessary that those now existing should be kept in good order. I have found the owners ready to co-operate with me in suggested alterations, and my recommendations have been attended to willingly.

The necessity for public conveniences has been recognised by the Board, and I would suggest that accommodation for customers should be provided at public-houses and inns. In some cases this has been done with great benefit to the locality.

The earth-closet system, I regard as most suitable, especially for the New Boro' District. I am glad to find the number of earth-closets has increased, and that the Board are determined to take steps to ensure the regular supply of earth, and the emptying of such closets at least once a week.

The drainage has been overhauled and improved, and I have advised the erection of additional flushing taps, and arrangements have been made with the Water Company for this purpose.

The water supply by the Company continues to be plentiful and of good quality, and has been laid on at many houses. I would again strongly recommend its being generally used especially in the low parts of the District.

*Union Workhouse.*—7 deaths were registered during 1894—3 being those of persons from the Wimborne Rural, and 4 from the Cranborne Rural District, altogether 6 males and 1 female.

4 deaths between 25-65—and 3 over 65.

Of these 2 from Heart Disease,—2 Bronchitis, &c., and 1 disease of the brain.

*Victoria Cottage Hospital.*—3 deaths of non-residents were registered—2 the result of Accidental Injuries and 1 from Internal Obstruction and Operation. The deaths were 25-65, 3—2 males and 1 female.





## WIMBORNE & CRANBORNE—Mr. C. H. WATTS PARKINSON.—

Population  
Census 1891, 14236,  
estimated to  
middle of 1894,  
47120. Deaths 189  
under 12·9 per  
1000. Births 414  
28 per 1000. Nat-  
ural increase of  
population 225.  
Deaths of Infants  
32. Infantile  
Mortality, per  
1000 births, 77·3.

Population  
Census 1891, 7605,  
estimated to  
middle of 1894,  
7850. Deaths 86  
under 11 per 1000.  
Births 228, 29 per  
1000. Natural  
increase of popu-  
lation 142. Deaths  
of Infants 9.  
Infantile  
Mortality, per  
1000 births, 39·5.

Population  
Census 1891, 6681,  
estimated middle  
of 1894, 6870.  
Deaths 103, nearly  
15 per 1000.  
Births 186, nearly  
27 per 1000.  
Natural increase  
of population 83.  
Deaths of Infants  
23. Infantile  
Mortality, per  
1000 births, 123.

In presenting my Report for 1894 I am glad to state that the death-rate has again fallen from 13·3 to 12·9 per 1000, while the cases of notifiable diseases were only 51 as compared with 145 cases in 1893.—The low mortality from zymotic disease is also again remarkable.

Only 189 deaths (88 males and 101 females) were registered, being at the very low rate of under 12·9 per 1000 estimated population.

414 births (184 males and 230 females) were registered, 11 more than in 1893.—The birth-rate being 28 per 1000 and the natural increase of population 225, while only 32 deaths of infants were registered, being at the very low rate of 77·3 per 1000 births.

Only 51 cases of notifiable disease occurred and only 4 deaths. The zymotic death-rate being 27 per 1000, and one of these was a death from Erysipelas, while the only other deaths from infectious diseases were 6 deaths from Influenza and its sequel.

### WIMBORNE RURAL DIVISION.

The returns for this district are most satisfactory, for not only has the death-rate decreased and the birth-rate increased, but there has also been no epidemic of any kind of notifiable disease, and an unprecedentedly low infantile death-rate and only one case of diphtheria (fatal).

86 deaths were registered during 1894 (34 males and 52 females), being 9 less than in 1893, and at the very low rate of under 11 per 1000; while 228 births (97 males and 131 females), 28 more than in 1893 were registered, being 29 per 1000.

The natural increase of population was 142, and only 9 deaths of infants being an infantile death-rate of under 40 per 1000, births, as compared with the average rate of about 100 per 1000.

Only 21 cases of notifiable disease with two deaths (1 of these from Erysipelas) and 2 deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia, &c. 29 deaths were registered in the first, 19 in the second, 11 in the third and 27 in the last quarter of the year.

*Deaths.*—Infants, 9—2 Bronchitis, 3 premature birth, &c., 2 convulsions.

1—5, 8, 1 Diphtheria, 1 Phthisis, 1 Bronchitis, &c., 2 Convulsions.

5—65, 31, 2 Influenza, &c., 1 Rheumatic fever, 7 Phthisis (1 came ill), 1 from injury, 1 Bronchitis, &c., 1 Heart disease and 1 Cancer.

Over 65, 38, 1 Erysipelas, 5 Bronchitis, &c., 3 Cancer, 7 Heart and 6 Brain diseases.

### CRANBORNE RURAL DIVISION.

This district has been more unfortunate than the other, for the death-rate has increased, and notably the infantile mortality, while the number of births has decreased. Only two deaths from notifiable disease, however, were registered; and 4 deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia are the only other deaths from infectious disease.—The increased mortality is more than accounted for by the fact that the deaths of infants have risen from 15 to 23, while the deaths from Phthisis and Tubercular meningitis amount to 15.—14 deaths of infants are due to premature birth or debility from birth. I fear the bad times and agricultural depression have some influence on these figures which point to a lowered vitality.

103 deaths were registered (54 males and 49 females), being 6 more than in 1893, and the death-rate is nearly 15 per 1000, while 186 births (87 males and 99 females), 17 less than 1893 were registered, being at the rate of 27 per 1000. The natural increase of population was 83, or 23 less than in 1893.—23 deaths of infants, or over 123 per 1000 births registered.

35 deaths were registered in the first, 32 in the second, 22 in the third and only 14 in the last quarter of the year.

*Deaths.*—Infants, 23, 14 Premature birth, &c., 2 Spina bifida, 4 Convulsions and 3 Bronchitis, &c.

1—5, 4, 3 from Tubercular Meningitis.

5—65, 41, 1 Typhoid, 1 Diphtheria, 3 Influenza, 10 Phthisis, 2 Tubercular Meningitis, 2 Injury, 2 Cancer, 1 Bronchitis, &c. 7 Heart and 1 Brain disease.

Over 65, 35, 1 Influenza, &c., 2 Phthisis, 7 Bronchitis, &c., 2 Cancer, 10 Heart and 4 Brain disease.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

During 1894 only 51 cases of notifiable disease occurred with 4 deaths, 21 in the Wimborne division with 2 deaths, and 30 in the Cranborne division with 2 deaths. Of these, 37 were cases of mild Scarlatina and no death, 10 Erysipelas with 1 death, 3 Diphtheria with 2 deaths and 1 Typhoid (fatal) complicated with paralysis.

*Typhoid.*—A fatal case was notified at Handley. The illness commenced with Paralysis.—The water supply was from a deep well in the chalk. The water was examined. No other case occurred in the district.

*Diphtheria*—Only 3 cases occurred, but 2 were fatal, 1 at Gussage All Saints, drainage defective—1 at Ringwood Road, drainage defective, pigsties and fowl houses offensive and 1 at Crichel (recovered), drainage defective and large privy vault full and offensive. These defective conditions were remedied.

*Scarlatina.*—37 cases of a mild type and no death.—In the Wimborne division only 11 cases all isolated ones. In no case did the disease spread beyond the family attacked, and only in three instances did a second case occur.—In the Cranborne division 26 cases were notified, 4 isolated single cases.—3 cases in 2 households at Cranborne.—The disease was imported and a prosecution was instituted by the Guardians for neglect of notification by the parents, and a fine inflicted. I hope this will act as a warning to householders that they are liable to a fine for non notification, and that the fact that they have not called in a medical man does not relieve them of that liability. At the end of the year the only epidemic occurred at Crichel and Manswood, when 19 cases occurred in 9 families. Here the disease was so mild that the first cases were not recognised by the parents, and the children allowed to go to school. The school became the means of spreading the disease and was closed at my request (as before reported) The Inspector has assisted me greatly in the work of stamping out and isolating these cases.

*Erysipelas*—10 cases with one death were reported.

*Influenza.*—Cases have occurred especially in the early part of the year and 6 deaths were referred to influenza and its sequels, but there has been no epidemic and the cases have apparently not been connected. I have had one remarkable case where three attacks occurred in the same patient at intervals of a month.

*Measels and Whooping Cough*—As far as I know there have been no cases during the past year.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30281039>



*Phthisis*.—The communicability of this disease to susceptible persons, at any rate, has raised the question whether this disease should not be added to the list of notifiable. While I hardly think this advisable, cases have come to my knowledge that clearly point to the danger to persons, at any rate, with hereditary tendency to phthisis, and I would suggest the necessity for the use of disinfectants in these cases and especially the thorough fumigation of the bed-room of a phthisical patient, at any rate before its being again occupied.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

During the past year the house-to-house inspection has been continued by the Inspector of Nuisances under my supervision, and the whole of the district has now been inspected.—I have made personal inspections with him, and can testify to the reliable manner in which he has done the work.

He has also revisited and taken steps to see that our recommendations have been carried out.

*Summary*.—Over 1100 houses and premises have been inspected and re-inspected and reported to the Authority and the nuisances abated.

Vault closets, converted into earth closets	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defective closets, accommodation remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	04
Cottages in bad repair, damp &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Defective drainage and offensive cesspools	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	33
Offensive pigsties and other nuisances	.	..	...	...	...	...	...	27
Wells cleaned out and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
New well	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cases of over-crowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total								233

Special attention has been paid to the isolation of cases of notifiable disease and with great success, as only in one case was there anything like an epidemic, and the cause of this has been before explained.

I have encouraged the substitution of earth closets with buckets for the old privy, and am happy to report that this is now almost universally adopted in the district, as it is in every way most suitable for country districts where every cottage has a garden. The bucket prevents any great accumulation and is easily emptied. The old custom of open privies placed over streams has been abolished, and to this I attribute a good deal of the improved condition of the district.

During the year I have inspected and reported to my Board on various matters, and the most important were connected with the Crichel district and Hampreston and Westmoors, &c. I recommended the substitution of earth closets for the large vaults, and in the newer and better estate cottages where the pigsty, wood-house and closet are placed under one roof, I also insisted on a bucket being substituted.

The water supply is good as a rule throughout the district, and wells are generally provided in sufficient number. In the Chalk hills, as Handley, these wells are of great depth and the water in the shallower wells from the gravel is also good. But the water supply in the poor heath-lands is not so satisfactory, and often the only available supply is from a stream or even a pool in the heath. A great many of the cottages in these districts belong to the tenant who has purchased a little heath-land and built his mud cottage thereon. Often there is a great difficulty and expense incurred in getting a good well supply and to insist on this would mean ruin to the owner. In these cases if the water supply can be preserved from contamination from sewage or cattle and is of fair quality, I do not insist on the well being sunk.

The only place supplied with water is the village of Hinton Martell, where an admirable supply, procured from an adjoining hill, was laid on to the cottages by pipes through the instrumentality of the late Mr. H. C. Burt.

The recent severe floods have, I am glad to report, not been followed by any epidemic as yet, although the children, especially of Sturminster Marshall and Shapwick, have suffered much from colds, the result of the water entering so many of the houses, and some method for the prevention of these floods and the cleaning of the river would be a great blessing.

In conclusion I would suggest that it would be of assistance to the Sanitary Officers if the new Parish Councils would consider any conditions affecting their parishes, and report to the Medical Officer of Health, and thus keep him at once informed of anything that may arise likely to affect injuriously the health of the parishioners.



